

NCLB Committee of Practitioners Meeting Minutes

Washington Elementary District Office
4650 W. Sweetwater
Glendale, AZ

September 16, 2011

COP Members: Harriet Caruso, Co-Chair Jacquelyn Power, Co-Chair AnNette Barnes Leanne Bowley Debbi Burdick Karen Burns-Copley Angelina Canto Geri Cloud Tom Collins Linda Denno Sherry Dorathy Mona Doyle Shelly Duran Mary Ellertson Beverly Enriquez Bob Fleischmann Cecilia Frakes Susan Gibson Connie Heath Scott Jacobson Sylvia Johnson Robbie Koerperich Ildi Laczko-Kerr	Carrie Larson Jean Lewis Leticia Lujan Patricia Marsh Teri Martinez Rebecca McClenning Chris McIntier Natalie McWhorter Joe O'Reilly Hilda Ortega-Rosales Patricia Osborne Doug Price Shelly Reed-Mezei Patrick Riley Eula Saxon Dean Dean Slaga Jeffrey Smith Mary Lou Weatherly Gina Vukovich Stephanie West Tammi Wilson Charlotte Wing	ADE: Nancy Konitzer – Title I DAS Tee Lambert – COP Clerk Gary Fortney Bobbie Orlando Barbara Nolan Obi Azobu Jill Jeans Cathy Poplin Richard Valdivia Lois Kruse	Guests: Mary C. Miller Kevin Mitchell
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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee of Practitioners (COP) was called to order at 9:05 am. Co-chairs Harriet Caruso and Sylvia Johnson introduced Dr. Susie Cook, Superintendent of Washington Elementary School District. Dr. Cook welcomed everyone to the district and thanked COP members for the work that they do. Sylvia had members introduce themselves and welcomed new members to COP.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the May 6, 2011 COP meeting were reviewed. Eula Dean Saxon motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Jacquelyn Power and passed unanimously.

Election of Co-Chair:

Harriet Caruso thanked Sylvia for serving as Co-Chair of COP for the past 2 years. Harriet asked for nominations from the floor. Jacquelyn Power was nominated and elected unanimously.

Sites for future COP Meetings:

The March meeting was rescheduled to March 8, 2012 from March 9, 2012 because of a conflict with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Title I Spring Coordinators meeting.

Sites for future meetings:

January 13, 2012 – Balsz Elementary
March 8, 2012 – Phoenix Advantage
May 11, 2012 – Tolleson Union

STANDING REPORTS

IDEAL:

Cathy Poplin, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Educational Technology, reviewed the primary purpose of IDEAL, which is to provide a single access point to educational resources and information for all Arizona Educators, including professional development, standards based curriculum resources, collaborative tools and school improvement resources. Cathy provided a handout listing the tools and resources available for Professional Development through IDEAL.

Cathy shared a memo going out to Districts and Charters regarding September 23, 2011 as the official end date for Discovery Streaming through IDEAL. The memo provided contact information for those who would like to subscribe Discovery Education Streaming for their schools.

Financial Report:

Harriet introduced Richard Valdivia, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Operations and Lois Kruse, Director of Central Processing Unit in Operations. Richard informed members that they can go to the federal web site at www.ed.gov, click on budgets to find out the allocation for the state. As of October 12, 2011, Arizona will receive \$314 million Title I dollars for SY11-12. When the 2010 Census information is released, it could affect district allocations for SY12-13.

Richard spoke to the importance of reporting the Free and Reduced Lunch count using NCLB indicators 1 and 2 in SAIS. This information affects data the Department of Education uses for teacher loan forgiveness and school to school comparison. The ADE uses as this information as part of the Title I allocation formula.

Members were reminded that ARRA is being closed out. ARRA funds will not be available for obligation after September 30, 2011. (Note: subsequent to the COP meeting, ADE applied for and was granted a waiver to extend the obligation period for ARRA Title I funds for one more year.) Richard reviewed audit findings and shared that there were issues across the state concerning Time and Effort activity logs. Another common audit finding was lack of record retention. LEAs must keep records for 3 years after the date the Final Report is due. If an LEA does not have records to validate their completion report, they may have to return funding to the state.

Calendar of Events:

Nancy Konitzer, Deputy Associate for Title I and ESEA Consolidated Activities, announced the dates of the ESEA/NCLB Application Workshops being held by the ADE:

- September 19, 2011 – Yuma
- September 21, 2011 – Phoenix
- September 27, 2011 – Flagstaff
- September 29, 2011 – Sierra Vista
- October 3, 2011 – Tucson
- October 5, 2011 – Tempe

Members brought up concerns about the apparent inconsistency approval of plans and that the school plan framework resource in ALEAT is not the same as the one that was used at the Fall Process Workshops. Nancy responded that Title I has been having training for specialists on reviewing plans to address any inconsistencies and that she would check on the documents to ensure that the most current is uploaded into ALEAT.

Nancy took members on an online tour of the new ADE website focusing on the Title I webpage and reviewed the re-organization changes to the ADE.

NCLB PROGRAM REPORTS

Title I Directors Update:

Nancy provided information on reports from Center on Education Policy www.cep-dc.org and WestEd http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/west/pdf/REL_2011017.pdf.

The Center on Education Policy compared achievement trends from 2002 – 2008. Arizona was one of nineteen states used in the study. In Arizona it showed that there has been growth in reading and mathematics. Arizona was one of 15 states that posted upward trends on the state assessment and NAEP in mathematics and one of 13 states with similar gains in reading. It was also reported that the achievement gaps between racial/ethnic subgroups and between low income and non-low income students improved almost across the board.

The ADE requested that WestEd study academic performance in schools receiving funding through Title I with schools that are in school improvement from 2006 to 2009. The study showed that Title I schools in school improvement increased proficiency in Reading and Mathematics 43% - 61%. Title I schools not in improvement increased their proficiency from 60%-71%. Non Title I schools improved proficiency from 76%-84%. The study also found that most schools are not exiting from school improvement status.

Waivers:

The ADE is waiting to hear more about the contents of the waiver package. There is still discussion going on the legality of waivers. The ED will be hosting a meeting on September 29th to provide information about accountability systems and waiver strategies.

Teacher Effectiveness:

Nancy reported that the Task Force has completed their work on the Framework for Measuring Educator Effectiveness. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent and Jan Amator, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders have been traveling around the state meeting with Educators and sharing the Framework.

At the ADE there will be groups established to work on two different areas, one will collect information on models of teacher evaluations, the other will coordinate assessment discussions for group B Teachers – those who have no AIMS scores to use as part of their evaluation. There will also be a series of Arizona Educator Evaluation Summits, the first of which will be held on November 13-14, 2011.

Title I Program Reminders:

- Applications due October 3rd,
- Title I School Improvement Plans are due October 3rd,
- AZLEARNS legacy labels govern the state school improvement plan,
- Review resources under each goal in the LEA Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) as you update each goal,
- The LEA CIP is due October 3rd and must be submitted before application can be reviewed,
- Update the Neglected and Delinquent counts, the form can be found in the Academic Achievement Reports in Common Logon and is due November 30th, and
- The MEGA Conference is November 15-17 at the Wigwam in Litchfield Park, Arizona

A.R.S. §15-701 - Move on When Reading:

Beginning in the school year 2013-2014, Arizona will implement an innovative new policy that will create multiple opportunities for 3rd grade students to master reading at the grade level. Students who are currently in first grade and who score Falls Far Below on the AIMS reading test when they reach 3rd grade may not be promoted. Schools will need to provide interventions in order for those students to meet the rigorous reading standards set forth in the Arizona English Language Arts

Standards and to be promoted to the next grade. This year schools should be conducting transition planning and rigorous reading instruction, so that students will be well-positioned to pass their 3rd grade AIMS test. A letter should be sent to parents making them aware of the change in the Statute. Next year in the CIP under goal 1a the ADE will be expecting strategies to address Move on When Reading.

Reauthorization of Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

Nancy reviewed the Senate Proposals regarding ESEA. The Health Education Labor & Pensions Chair Senator Tom Harkin and Senator Michael Enzi have a comprehensive bill. It was due to be released in the Spring but to date it has not come out of committee. Senators Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Johnny Isakson and Mark Kirk have submitted 4 additional bills.

In the 4 bills from the Senate Republican proposal deal with:

- Title I refocused – keeping current testing requirements, continue disaggregated reporting, require College & Career Ready standards but not prescribe them, have school improvement still focus on the lowest 5% and have states provide support for other levels of school improvement.
- A bill that would remove the requirement of Highly Qualified Teachers, and still require a state evaluation system.
- A bill for Charters that mirrors the House proposal that passed.
- A bill to provide 2 flexible funding streams to be used for improving teaching and learning and safe and healthy students.

In the House of Representatives there are 4 or more bills going through the house that focus on addressing on different pieces of ESEA:

- A bill dealing with Charters passed with bipartisan support on September 13th.
- A bill to consolidate programs which reflects some of President Obama's Blueprint, which passed the education committee.
- A bill dealing with Teacher effectiveness surrounding teacher evaluation.
- A bill for flexibility, where Title I funds could be moved out of Title I programs.

There has been an accountability hearing on September 14, 2011, where testimony was heard from two school districts, principals from school in Maryland and Pennsylvania, reflecting their experience with dealing with NCLB. The Secretary of Education in New Mexico, Hanna Skandera, testified that 87% of New Mexico schools have failed AYP and 50% of the 3rd graders are proficient in reading.

Nancy reviewed a power point from the Committee for Education Funding titled "The Budget Control Act" which dealt with investing in education. The information included data on the growing enrollments in K-12 and higher education, unemployment linked to educational attainment and provided a list of cuts to education and the details to the Budget Control Act. To find out more members can go www.cef.org.

MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 2011 - 2012

November 17, 2011	Cancelled
January 13, 2012	Balsz Elementary School District
March 8, 2012	Phoenix Advantage Charter School
May 11, 2012	Tolleson Union High School District

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Harriet thanked everyone for their participation.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.